

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Cultural Heritage & Education Institute****Federal Tax ID: 920127626****Project Title:**

# Cultural Heritage & Education Institute - Cultural Preservation Initiative

**State Funding Requested: \$ 50,000****House District: 10 - E**

Future Funding May Be Requested

**Brief Project Description:**

Start-up funding for a three-year project titled "Sharing Alaska Traditional Knowledge." The project's purpose is to create multimedia, bilingual reference material, based on original interviews and fieldwork, to preserve the cultural knowledge, language and history of the Tanana River Drainage Athabascans and provide educational material to enhance DEED Alaska Content Standards.

**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project: \$424,590**Funding SecuredOther Pending RequestsAnticipated Future Need

Amount FY

Amount FY

Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

*Explanation of Other Funds:**Foundations, organizations and businesses.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

A detailed project description is attached as a PDF.

Sharing Alaska Native Traditional Knowledge is a three-year project of the Cultural Heritage and Education Institute(CHEI). The project will combine community-based research and the knowledge of Native elders, to produce a multimedia resource and offer hands-on training opportunities for Alaska Natives/AMerican Indians.

The total project budget for the three years is \$424,500:

Year 1 \$139,800 to train and initiate fieldwork,

Year 2 \$137,000 for fieldwork and research, and

Year 3 \$147,700 to produce ethnographical reference.

The project will benefit Alaska's schools and communities. The completed work will be shared with Alaska school districts to provide a resource for fulfilling the cultural and history standards of Alaska Content Standards.

This project has received the support of the Yukon-Koyukuk School District, The Institute for Alaska Native Health Research, and the Center for Cross-Cultural Studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The Cultural Heritage and Education Institute is an Alaska Native-run 501(c)(3) established in 1984.

CHEI is recognized for its summer culture camps at Old Minto using Native elders as mentors which has become a model for culture camps in the state. CHEI established the Old Minto Cultural Heritage Camp in 1987. For twenty summers, in coordination with the University of Alaska, new teachers in the cross-cultural education program participated in week-long traditional summer fish camps in Old Minto to learn about Alaska Native culture. Some of CHEI's other camps have been for high risk youth, alcohol abuse, developmentally disabled youth and intergenerational groups.

CHEI intends to apply to foundations, organizations and businesses for funds to complete this project. The following have given support to CHEI over the years: AFN, UAF, Rasmusson Foundation, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Alaska Humanities Foundation, Alyeska Pipeline Company, ConocoPhillips, Alaska Railroad, Alaska Airlines and Walmart.

**Project Timeline:**

Three-year project.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Cultural Heritage and Education Institute

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Contact Name: Robert Charlie, executive director

Phone Number: 907-451-0923

Address: P.O. Box 74776, Fairbanks, AK 99707

Email: chei@mosquitonet.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Minto

# **Sharing Alaska Native Traditional Knowledge**

***A Project by Cultural Heritage and Education Institute***

## **Project Summary**

The three-year project is titled *Sharing Alaska Native Traditional Knowledge*. Cultural Heritage and Education Institute (CHEI) will work with Native students and faculty (secondary and college), Native young adults, various Native programs at the University of Alaska and local schools, such as Effie Kokrine Charter School, and with Alaska Native tribes. The goal is to create a Native-produced multimedia bilingual work of reference based on original interviews and fieldwork to preserve the cultural knowledge, language and history of Alaska Natives from their perspective and provide educational material to enhance the fulfillment of State Board of Education & Early Development Alaska Content Standards. The project will combine community-based research and the knowledge of Native elders to produce a multimedia resource and offer hands-on training opportunities for Alaska Natives/American Indians. The project will benefit the Alaska school system, Alaska Native tribes, and Alaska communities. The completed work of reference will be shared with Alaska school districts to provide a resource for fulfilling the cultural standards of Alaska Content Standards and for fulfilling the performance standards for history of Alaska Content Standards. The completed work of reference will also be shared with public libraries and with Alaska Native tribes for their use toward cultural and language preservation and economic development. The project will chronicle at least fourteen oral histories and information on cultural land uses in English and in local Native language as much as possible. Over the three years, six Alaska Natives/American Indians will be trained in ethnographical fieldwork and research and in multimedia production. The total project budget for the three years is \$424,590 – broken down to \$139,839 for the first year to train and initiate fieldwork and research, \$137,014 for the second year to concentrate on fieldwork and research, and \$147,737 for the third year to review and organize the data and then produce and distribute the ethnographical reference.

## **Objectives**

The overall goal of this project is to develop a holistic, bilingual resource from the Native point-of-view to preserve Alaska Native history, languages, cultures and traditional knowledge for the benefit of the state school system, public libraries, local communities, and Alaska Native tribes.

The objectives for the first twelve months of the project are: 1) to document in English and the relative Alaska Native language at least five oral histories and information on subsistence and land use of various Alaska Native tribes, 2) to provide hands-on training for Alaska Natives/American Indians in ethnographical research and fieldwork, and 3) to provide training for Alaska Natives/American Indians in use of various digital media.

The objectives for the second twelve months are: 1) to document in English and the relative Alaska Native language at least nine oral histories and information on subsistence and land use of various Alaska Native tribes, and 2) to provide training for Alaska Natives/American Indians in basic web design and multimedia digital editing.

The objectives for the third twelve months of the project are: 1) to bring all the elements collected from the previous years to produce a bilingual ethnographical resource on Alaska Native history, languages, cultures and traditional knowledge in digital formats for the internet, e-publishing, CD, and DVD, and 2) to provide hands-on training for Alaska Natives/American Indians in writing, multimedia production, web design and maintenance, layout design, and marketing.

### **Results or Benefits Expected**

The project will enhance the understanding of Alaska Natives and the links between their history, culture, language and geography. The multimedia resource produced will be a useful tool for schools in fulfilling Alaska Content Standards and aims to be capable for use in either a classroom setting or by individuals.

Through project staff and consultants, six trainees will gain knowledge and experience in one or more of the following areas: Conducting research, original ethnographical fieldwork, phonetics of various written Alaska Native languages, multimedia digital editing, basic web design and maintenance, layout design, writing, and basic marketing.

The project is designed so it adopted by a local school board or a regional entity to concentrate on their area to further aid in fulfilling Alaska Content Standards and assist in regional preservation efforts.

The multimedia ethnographical reference will be an asset to the Alaska Native tribes as a learning tool for cultural preservation, a source of cultural pride, and a tool for economic development endeavors such as tourism.

## **Approach**

This project presents an innovative and holistic approach to cultural preservation. Native people themselves will do fieldwork and research to document and preserve their own history, cultural knowledge, and language without interpretation.

For the first two years, elders from different villages will be brought to Fairbanks and their oral histories documented. Researchers will go on fieldtrips to capture video and photos of areas pertaining to the oral histories and relative communities. The data gathered will be edited and compiled, text will be written and product produced for CD, DVD and web/e-publishing. Training will be an ongoing activity – the first year for learning digital multimedia equipment and computer use, research techniques, oral history documentation, and phonetics of various Alaska Native languages; the second year will introduce digital multimedia editing and basic web design and continue training in research and phonetics of various Alaska Native languages; third year training will include writing, graphic design and layout, web design and maintenance, multimedia production, and marketing.

This project is multidisciplinary and it incorporates the social and physical sciences, including linguistics, history, oral history, and geography, as well as communication arts and information technology. The Cultural Heritage and Education Institute will implement the project under the direction of CHEI Board of Directors and in consultation with Native elders and Alaska Native programs at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The project will be headed by Minto elder and CHEI Executive Director Robert Charlie. Mr. Charlie is knowledgeable of Alaska Native culture and subsistence practices. He was raised in the subsistence lifestyle and therefore has invaluable first-hand knowledge. The project will actively use Native elders, Native students, academic and professional consultants, and community volunteers. CHEI has developed strong partnerships with Doyon, Ltd. Native Corporation, Tanana Chiefs Conference, a variety of Native programs and organizations in Alaska, and several entities of the University of Alaska Fairbanks – Alaska Native Knowledge Network, Alaska Native Language Center, and Departments of Oral History, History, Cross-Cultural Communication, and Rural Development. These partnerships will be drawn on throughout the project.

## **Organizational Profile**

The Cultural Heritage and Education Institute is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization founded in 1984 by its executive director, Mr. Robert Charlie. CHEI's mission is to share and preserve Alaska Native culture and traditional knowledge, to promote healthy lifestyles and sobriety through Alaska Native culture and heritage, and to restore the historical and spiritual Athabascan site of Old Minto, Alaska.

CHEI is recognized for its summer culture camps at Old Minto using Native elders as mentors which has become a model for culture camps in the state. CHEI established the Old Minto Cultural Heritage Camp in 1987 at the Old Minto village site. Old Minto functions as an informal learning environment in a wilderness setting. The cultural immersion camps impart to participants Alaska Native knowledge, traditional environmental knowledge, survival skills, food preparation, stories, Native crafts, and Athabascan language.

For twenty summers, in coordination with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, new teachers in the Cross-cultural Education program participated in week-long traditional summer fish camps in Old Minto to learn about Alaska Native culture. Some of CHEI's other camps have been for high risk youth, alcohol abuse, developmentally disabled youth, and intergenerational groups. CHEI has also been involved in after-school programs with Minto School in Minto.

## Sharing Alaska Native Traditional Knowledge

### Budget Year One

<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Project Director	\$28,600.00	
Project Asst/Field Researcher/Archivist	\$22,880.00	
Field Researcher/Archivist Trainee	\$17,160.00	
Field Researcher/Archivist Trainee	\$17,160.00	
<b>Fringe</b>		
FICA	\$10,639.00	
Medicare	\$2,488.00	
ESC	\$2,806.00	
Workers Compensation Insurance	\$6,538.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		\$108,271.00
<b>Consultants/Contracts</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Academic Consultant	\$2,000.00	
Audio/Video Trainer	\$625.00	
Accountant	\$1,500.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		\$4,125.00
<b>Honoraria</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Elder Honoraria	\$1,250.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		\$1,250.00
<b>Supplies</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Desktop Computer	\$2,230.00	
Laptop Computer	\$2,800.00	
External Backup Hard Drive	\$250.00	
Software	\$400.00	
miniDV Camera	\$1,900.00	
MiniDV Tapes	\$20.00	
Digital Camera	\$1,080.00	
SD Memory Cards	\$150.00	
Minidisc Recorder	\$440.00	
Minidiscs	\$70.00	
Microphones	\$300.00	
Headphones	\$200.00	
Battery Recharger and Batteries	\$35.00	
Office Supplies	\$720.00	
DVD-R Blank Discs	\$50.00	
CD-R/CD-RW Blank	\$25.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		\$10,670.00
<b>Office</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Rent	\$4,080.00	
Telephone	\$960.00	
DSL Internet	\$660.00	
Insurance	\$7,000.00	
Postage	\$60.00	

Printing, Photocopies	\$100.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		\$12,860.00

<b>Travel</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Mileage	\$1,213.00	
Lodging and Per Diem	\$1,450.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<u>\$2,663.00</u>

<b>TOTAL YEAR ONE</b>		<b>\$139,839.00</b>
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**Budget Year Two**

<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Project Director	\$28,600.00	
Project Asst/Field Researcher/Archivist	\$22,880.00	
Field Researcher/Archivist Trainee	\$17,160.00	
Field Researcher/Archivist Trainee	\$17,160.00	
<b>Fringe</b>		
FICA	\$10,639.00	
Medicare	\$2,488.00	
ESC	\$2,806.00	
Workers Compensation Insurance	\$6,538.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		\$108,271.00

<b>Consultants/Contracts</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Academic Consultant	\$2,000.00	
Audio/Video Editor/Trainer	\$500.00	
Webmaster/Trainer	\$3,500.00	
Accountant	\$1,500.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		\$7,500.00

<b>Honoraria</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Elder Honoraria	\$2,250.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		\$2,250.00

<b>Supplies</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Office Supplies	\$720.00	
SD Memory Cards	\$150.00	
Minidiscs	\$70.00	
DVD-R Blank Discs	\$50.00	
CD-R/CD-RW Blank	\$25.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		\$1,015.00

<b>Office</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Rent	\$4,080.00	
Telephone	\$960.00	
DSL Internet	\$660.00	



Web Server Services	\$420.00	
Insurance	\$7,000.00	
Postage	\$60.00	
Printing, Photocopies	\$100.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		\$13,280.00

<b>Travel</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Mileage	\$1,698.00	
Lodging and Per Diem	\$2,300.00	
Air Travel	\$700.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<u>\$4,698.00</u>

**TOTAL YEAR TWO** **\$137,014.00**

### Budget Year Three

<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Project Director	\$28,600.00	
Project Asst/Field Researcher/Archivist	\$22,880.00	
Field Researcher/Archivist Trainee	\$17,160.00	
Field Researcher/Archivist Trainee	\$17,160.00	
<b>Fringe</b>		
FICA	\$10,639.00	
Medicare	\$2,488.00	
ESC	\$2,806.00	
Workers Comp Insurance	\$6,538.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		\$108,271.00

<b>Consultants/Contracts</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Academic Consultant	\$2,000.00	
Audio/Video Editor/Trainer	\$625.00	
Webmaster/Trainer	\$2,500.00	
Publications Editor/Graphic Designer	\$5,000.00	
Accountant	\$1,500.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		\$11,625.00

<b>Honoraria</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Elder Honoraria	\$500.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		\$500.00

<b>Supplies</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Office Supplies	\$720.00	
Software	\$400.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		\$1,120.00

<b>Office</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Rent	\$4,080.00	

Telephone	\$960.00	
DSL Internet	\$660.00	
Web Server Services	\$420.00	
Insurance	\$7,000.00	
Postage	\$60.00	
Printing, Photocopies	\$100.00	
Packaging/Mailing	\$500.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$13,780.00</b>

<b>Services</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Printing	\$5,000.00	
DVD/CD Replication	\$2,400.00	
Marketing	\$3,000.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$10,400.00</b>

<b>Travel</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Mileage	\$485.00	
Lodging and Per Diem	\$556.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,041.00</b>

<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Facilities Rental, Catering for product release	\$1,000.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b><u>\$1,000.00</u></b>

<b>TOTAL YEAR THREE</b>		<b>\$147,737.00</b>
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Yukon Koyukuk School District  
Administrative & Support Offices  
4762 Old Airport Way  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Christopher Simon  
Superintendent

Telephone: (907) 374-9400  
Fax: (907) 374-9440

January 23, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

The Yukon-Koyukuk School District has had a collaborative relationship with the Cultural Heritage and Education Institute (CHEI) for many years. We are pleased to support CHEI's endeavors to preserve Alaska Native history, languages, culture and traditional knowledge in an effort to develop important resources for schools, communities and local Alaska Native tribes.

We understand that by supporting CHEI's venture on this project, we will be helping to empower and involve schools, libraries and communities as they develop a stronger understanding of Alaska Native people and the links between their history, culture, language and geography.

We believe that supporting and working with organizations that have similar goals is vital to cultural preservation. It also provides avenues for all stakeholders to draw upon the strengths that each have to offer.

If you have any questions regarding our support of CHEI's project, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Christopher Simon, Superintendent

The mission of the Yukon-Koyukuk School District, in active partnership with its families and communities, is to provide our students with the skills and knowledge necessary to become contributing members of their families, communities and society.



## Center for Alaska Native Health Research

Institute of Arctic Biology  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
311 Irving I.  
Box 757000  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7000

TEL: (907) 474-5528  
FAX: (907) 474-5700  
Email: [tycanhr@uaf.edu](mailto:tycanhr@uaf.edu)  
Web: <http://www.alaska.edu/canhr>

February 1, 2008

Senator Albert Kookesh  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 11  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Kookesh:

I would like to support the funding of the proposal *Sharing Alaska Native Traditional Knowledge* prepared by the Cultural Heritage Education Institute (CHEI). They will work with Native students and faculty (secondary and college), Native young adults, various Native programs at the University of Alaska and local schools, such as Effie Kokrine Charter School, and with Alaska Native tribes to create a Native-produced multimedia bilingual work based on original interviews and fieldwork. The cultural knowledge of Elders and indigenous languages of Alaska are at risk of being lost. This project will preserve valuable knowledge for future generations.

The project will combine community-based research and the knowledge of Native elders to produce a multimedia resource and offer hands-on training opportunities that can benefit the Alaska school system, Alaska Native tribes, and Alaska communities. Robert Charlie's organization is well situated to carry out this work. They also have the capacity to link with schools so that the results of their work will provide a basis for curricula for Alaska Native studies and Alaska history.

Please accept my letter as unqualified support for this worthy project.

Sincerely,

Gerald V. Mohatt, EdD  
Professor of Psychology  
Director, Center for Alaska Native Health Research

Cc CHEI



CENTER FOR CROSS-CULTURAL STUDIES  
**UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS**

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Fairbanks, Alaska 99775  
(907) 474-1902 • (Fax) 474-1957

January 17, 2008

Senator Albert Kookesh  
Alaska State Senate  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Senator Kookesh:

I am writing this letter in support of the "Sharing Alaska Native Traditional Knowledge" proposal prepared by the Cultural Heritage and Education Institute to be used in support of the cultural and educational programs offered at the Old Minto Camp on the Tanana River near Nenana. The University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Alaska Native Knowledge Network have been working with CHEI for over 20 years in the joint sponsorship of a highly successful cultural orientation program for teachers and a model mapping curriculum project involving students working with Elders and teachers from the Minto School. The Cultural Heritage and Education Institute has been providing an important community and educational service through the camp facilities and such services would be greatly facilitated if stable funding could be made available to CHEI to help them establish their programs on a more sustainable basis. I encourage you to support this proposal and offer our assistance for the CHEI programs in any way that will be mutually beneficial.

I will be happy to provide additional information at your request and I encourage full support for the CHEI proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Ray Barnhardt, Co-Director  
Alaska Native Knowledge Network  
Center for Cross-Cultural Studies  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Fairbanks, AK 99775



*Dedicated to preserving the Athabascan way of life.*

## CULTURAL HERITAGE & EDUCATION INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 73030 • Fairbanks, Alaska 99707 • (907) 451-0923 • FAX (907) 451-0910  
website-<http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/chei> Email-Chei@mosquitonet.com

October 18, 2007

In regards to: Sharing Tanana Athabascan Cultural Knowledge Proposal

Honorable Governor Palin  
State Capitol  
PO Box 110020  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Honorable Governor Palin:

I am submitting to you a proposal for a project titled "Sharing Tanana Athabascan Cultural Knowledge." I am requesting that you consider it for funding as it is a needed educational project.

This is a three-year project designed to assure that the culture, traditional knowledge and language of Tanana Athabascans be preserved for future generations as well as providing educational material to forward the teaching of Alaska history. Through this project CHEI will conduct research, fieldwork, and record oral histories of the Athabascan tribes along or near the Tanana River from North to down to Tanana. We will rely on Native elders as key resources and will train Alaska Natives/American Indians to do the research and documentation. Completion of the project will add an invaluable contribution to the humanities.

CHEI was established in 1984 with a mission to preserve and share Athabascan culture and way of life and to restore the historical and spiritual Athabascan site of Old Minto. It is an Alaska Native-run 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. One of CHEI's most successful efforts was the establishment in 1987 of the Old Minto Cultural Heritage Camp in Old Minto on the Tanana River.

I deeply appreciate your consideration to fund this project.

Sincerely,

Robert Charlie

cc: Ms. Karen Rehfeld, Director of Office of Management and Budget

SARAH PALIN  
GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR@GOV.STATE.AK.US



P.O. Box 110001  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0001  
(907) 465-3500  
FAX (907) 465-3532  
WWW.GOV.STATE.AK.US

STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JUNEAU

October 31, 2007

Mr. Robert Charlie  
Cultural Heritage & Education Institute  
P.O. Box 73030  
Fairbanks, AK 99707

Dear Mr. Charlie:

Thank you for your letter and proposal regarding the "Sharing Tanana Athabascan Cultural Knowledge" educational project. I deeply respect your efforts to preserve the culture, language, and values of the Athabascan people. There may be several grant opportunities for funding a project with the educational focus through the U.S. Department of Education, the University of Alaska, the Rasmussen Foundation, or the Alaska Humanities Forum.

As you know, we are just now starting to develop the FY2009 operating and capital budgets that will be released to the public in December. My budget goals are very clear: to slow the growth of government, live within our means, and save for the future. Within this budget discipline, our priorities must be to promote a strong economy, world-class education, safer communities, and solid infrastructure. The budget will prioritize spending, make substantial investments in core services, and save for our future.

While I am supportive of the project you are proposing, it is unlikely that I will be able to include funds for it in the state's FY2009 budget. This budget will focus on the state's basic responsibilities, schools, public safety, and needed transportation improvements that are essential to getting Alaska's infrastructure ready for the state's economic future. I look forward to working with municipal leaders, legislators, and the public to develop a responsible and sustainable budget for the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sarah Palin".

Sarah Palin  
Governor

cc: Russ Kelly, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor